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Printed By: Peter S Gadzhald 03/07/2002 12:23:58 PM

Cable Text:
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TELEGRAM

January 30, 2002

To: SECSTATE WASHDC - ROUTINE

Action: FM

From: AMEMBASSY CARACAS (CARACAS 240 - ROUTINE)

Tags: ETRD, PREL, KPFC, KOWC

Captions: None

Subject: REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION OF NATIONAL
INTEREST FOR EXPORT-IMPORT BANK FINANCING OF OV-10
SPARE PARTS CONTRACT

Ref: (A) EXPORT-IMPORT BANK CASE REFERENCE NUMBERS
AP072846XX-VENEZUELA, AP072846(A)-VENEZUELA AND
AP0781125XX-VENEZUELA. (B) VENEZUELAN AIR FORCE (FAV)
LETTER 27 AUGUST 01.

1. THE FIRST TWO REFERENCE NUMBERS ARE LOANS IN FORCE AND THE THIRD THE REFERENCE NUMBER OF THE SUBJECT CASE. ALL LOANS PURSUE THE SAME GOAL; UPGRADING THE VENEZUELAN OV-10 FLEET IN ORDER TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE IN THE COUNTER DRUG ROLE NOW ASSIGNED THE AIRCRAFT. REFERENCE (B) IS A LETTER FROM THE FAV COMMANDER STATING THE OV-10 AIRCRAFT ARE STILL ASSIGNED TO THE COUNTER DRUG MISSION AND THAT THIS PURCHASE IS TO ENSURE THEIR CONTINUED SERVICE IN THIS ROLE.

2. THE VENEZUELAN AIR FORCE PROVIDES CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FOR BORDER CONTROL OPERATIONS ALONG ITS BORDER WITH COLOMBIA. THE VENEZUELAN MILITARY HAS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMBATING CROSS-BORDER TRANSPORT OF DRUGS AND THE CULTIVATION OF OPIUM POPPY ON VENEZUELAN TERRITORY.

3. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE VENEZUELAN MILITARY HAS USED DEFENSE ARTICLES OR SERVICES FROM ANY PAST SALES IN A CONSISTENT PATTERN OF GROSS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN-RIGHTS. VENEZUELA HAS COMPLIED WITH ALL END-USE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY THE U.S. ON SALES OF DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES.

4. VENEZUELA IS A MAJOR TRANSIT COUNTRY FOR THE SHIPMENT OF ILLEGAL DRUGS TO THE U.S. THE VENEZUELAN ARMED FORCES PLAYS A LARGE ROLE IN GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO INTERDICT DRUGS DESTINED FOR THE U.S. AND EUROPE. U.S. VENEZUELAN COOPERATION IN COUNTER-DRUG PROGRAMS IS STRONG.

5. THE EMBASSY STRONGLY SUPPORTS A PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION IN FAVOR OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK LOAN TO THE GOV IN ORDER TO FINANCE THE BOEING LOGISTICS SUPPORT OF THE VENEZUELAN OV-10 FLEET.

HRTHAK

Additional Addressees:
None

cc:

Distribution:

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
DATE/CASE ID: 02 AUG 2006 200304421

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ACTION PM-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CEA-01	CIAB-00	CIP-00
	COME-00	CTME-00	INL-00	DOER-00	ITCE-00	DOYE-00	WHA-00
	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EXMB-00	E-00	FAAR-00	UTED-00
	VC-00	FEB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	ITC-01	L-00
	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	ORS-01	OMB-01	OPIC-01
	PA-00	PRE-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	STR-00	TEST-00	TREE-00	T-00	USIE-00	FMP-00	EPAE-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	MFAT-00	SAS-00	/009W

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R 302021Z JAN 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC//ARA/PM// 4648
INFO OSAF WASHINGTON DC//IAL//
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDPA/OPS-MR-ISA//
USCINCSO MIAMI FL//SOCS//
JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J5-WTC//
USGOUTHAF DAVIS MONTHAN AFB AZ//A5//
UNCLAS CARACAS 000240

DEPT FOR PM/ATEC
DEPT ALSO FOR PM/TC

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, PREL, KPFC, KONG
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION OF NATIONAL
INTEREST FOR EXPORT-IMPORT BANK FINANCING OF OV-10 SPARE
PARTS CONTRACT

REF: (A) EXPORT-IMPORT BANK CASE REFERENCE NUMBERS
APO72846XX-VENEZUELA, APO72846(A)-VENEZUELA AND
APO781125XX-VENEZUELA. (B) VENEZUELAN AIR FORCE (FAV)
LETTER 27 AUGUST 01.

End Cable Text

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman

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For Immediate Release
2001/98

January 31, 2002

Question Taken at January 31, 2002 Daily Press Briefing

Venezuela: Support for the FARC?

Question: There are reports that Venezuela's Minister of Interior signed documents agreeing to provide oil and gas to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) in exchange for the FARC's agreement not to kidnap anyone in Venezuela. Is there any truth to these reports? If true, would such an agreement suggest that the Government of Venezuela supports terrorism?

Answer: We have no information to confirm or deny these reports. According to our law, we have designated the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the National Liberation Army (ELN), and the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC) to be foreign terrorist organizations. We have been very clear in our discussions with Venezuelan leaders -- as we have with leaders throughout the Western Hemisphere and across the globe -- that we strongly oppose any support, from whatever source, for terrorist organizations.

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